

one township I think we have signatures of 99% of the cattlemen that wanted to be removed and the reason they want to be removed is because the cattlemen in these townships feel that brand inspection isn't necessary. They agreed that it may be necessary if they were in the range-land country but they are not. They are in a crop producing area, they are in a farming area and, therefore, they requested that they be removed from the brand inspection area.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The question is the adoption of the committee amendments. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Please vote. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of committee amendments.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The committee amendments are adopted. Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, this bill as amended would remove five townships in Knox County from the brand inspection area and a little earlier I passed out a map that shows you what we would be removing and the reason that we want to remove it, like I told you before, over 90% of the cattlemen in this area want out. They say that they receive absolutely no benefit from being in the brand inspection area. And so I would say to you, if they derive no benefit from being in it, why don't we eliminate them from being in it and as you can see by the map we make a straight line, a straight north/south line. We remove the extreme northeast corner from the brand inspection area. We had this bill before us last year. We ran out of time and so, therefore, I would urge you to support the bill in the amended form.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, very reluctantly I support this bill. I just want it to be on record that I hope Senator Hefner or no one else comes in with a similar bill next year and wants to chip away at the brand area. The brand area is very sacred to a lot of people in western Nebraska. This is the thing that keeps cattle from being stolen and compared to other states this state is very fortunate. We don't have the problem that they have in a lot of other states that do not have a brand area. If I had my druthers I would extend the brand area all over the state because every county is getting the advantage of it and the